Differences on the Assessment of People Living Below Poverty Line

3644. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the differences prevail amongst the Research organizations about the percentage of persons living below the poverty line in India;

(b) what is the latest percentage as per Government data based on the living conditions; and

(c) whether it is a fact that NCAER and Lakdawala Committee figures on people living below the Poverty Line differs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the latest available estimate, 35.97% of people live below the poverty line in the country in 1993-94. This is estimated from the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of 50th Round (July, 1993 to June, 1994).

(c) Yes, Sir.

Fund Released for the Settlement of Jhumia Tribals

3645. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2440 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd December, 1999 and state:

(a) what fund sought to be released by Government per annum; and

(b) the fund released so far, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE

MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): a) and (b) the projected cost is Rs. 403 crore, of which 15% is required to be borne by the host Country. The State Government proposed that 10% be provided by the Central Government through additional Central Assistance, while 5% would be borne by the State. it has, however, been decided in consultation with the State Government that the host country's share of 15% would be borne entirely by the State Government out of its normal Annual Plan allocations, including additional Central Assistance provided for settlement of Jhumias. The rest would be funded by the World Bank. The Project is pending for approval of the World Bank.

Additional Centre Assistance, as approved for Tripura during last three years for settlement of Jhumias is as follows:--

Year	Amount (Rs. Crore)
1997-98	0.80
1998-99	0.80
1999.2000	0.80

Centrally Sponsored scheme for development of Backward areas

3646. SHRI E. BALADNANDAN: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Centrally sponsored scheme was implemented for development of backward areas during the Eighth Plan period; and

(b) if so, what were the achievements of the scheme, State-wise.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Planning Commission has nothdeclared any area as backwrd per se. Hence, no Centrally Sponsored Scheme was implemented specifically for the development of backward areas during the Eighth Plan Period. However, in order to mitigate the special problems of certain areas, Special Central Assistance was allocated under Special Area Programmes such as the Hill Areas Development Programme and the Border Area Development Programme. During the Eighth Plan period, Special Central Assitance of Rs. 1634.01 crore was allocated under the Hill Areas Development Programme and Rs. 736 crore under the Border Area Development Programme.